

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following paragraph before the first paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/479,576 filed June 18, 2003 and U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/512,491 filed October 18, 2003, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the second paragraph on page 9 of the specification according to the following:

FIGURES 3A and 3B show an alternative preferred embodiment of the subject needle holder 250' including a set of tweezers-like arm portions 251, 252, and 253 adapted to grip the needle portion 193 of the biopsy needle 122' 192' in a V-shaped groove 254 formed thereby. It is to be appreciated that the V-shaped groove enables needles or probes having a variety of diameters to be held by the holder while maintaining a single common central axis line relative to the needle guide apparatus 200. Although three arm portions are shown, more arms having a similar configuration can be used as well for added precision and stability. In the form shown, the uppermost arm portion 251 and the lowermost arm portion 253 are adapted to engage the needle 193 on an opposite side from the central arm portion 252. Each of the arm portions overlie each other in the vertical, or needle, direction so that the confronting arm portions can overlap in the vertical direction without mechanically interfering with each other for grasping needles having a small diameter. For larger needles, the arm portions 251-253 do not overlap while in the grasped orientation, but rather engage the needle 193 at linear contact points established by the V-groove areas 254 such as illustrated in FIGURE 3B.